His Majesties
GRACIOUS
SPEECH
Together with the
Lord Keepers,
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
January 7. 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

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His Majesties GRACIOUS SPEECH To both Houses of PARLIAMENT,

January 7. 167¾.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

When I parted with you last, it was but for a little time, and with a resolution of meeting suddenly again. That alone was enough to satisfie My Friends that they need not fear, and My Enemies that they could not hope for a Breach between Us. I then told you, that the time of this short Recess should be employed in doing such things as might add to your Satisfaction. I hope I have done My part towards it:

And if there be any thing else which you think wanting to secure Religion or Property, there is nothing which you shall reasonably propose, but I shall be ready to receive it. I do now expect you should do your parts too, for Our Enemies make vigorous preparations for War, and yet their chief hopes are to disunite us at home; 'tis their Common Discourse, and they reckon upon it as their best Relief.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is not possible for Me to doubt your Affections at any time, much less at such a time as this, when the Evidences of your Affections are become so necessary to us all. I desire you to consider, that as the War cannot be well made without a Supply, so neither can a good Peace be had without being in a posture of War. I am very far from being in love with War, for Wars sake; But if I saw any likelyhood of Peace without dishonour to My Self, and damage to You, I would soon embrace it. But no proposals of Peace have yet been offered, which can be imagined with intent to conclude,

clude, but onely to amuſe. Therefore the way to a good Peace is to ſet out a good Fleet, which We have time enough to do very effectually, if the Supply be not delayed. If after this a Peace ſhould follow, yet the Supply would be well given, for what ever remains of it, I am willing ſhould be appropriated for building more Ships.

To conclude, a ſpeedy, a proportionable, and above all a cheerful Ayd is now more neceſſary then ever, and I rely upon you for it.

I lately put you in mind of my Debt to the Goldſmiths, I hope a fit time will come to take that into conſideration.

I cannot conclude without ſhewing the entire Confidence I have in you. I know you have heard much of My Alliance with France, *and I believe it hath been very ſtrangely miſrepreſented to you, as if there were certain ſecret Articles of dangerous Conſequence, But I will make no difficulty of letting the Treaties and all the Articles of them, without any the*

leaſt reſerve, to be ſeen by a ſmall Committee of both Houſes, who may Report to you the true ſcope of them; And I aſſure you there is no other Treaty with France, *either before or ſince, not already printed, which ſhall not be made known. And having thus freely truſted you, I do not doubt but you will have a care of My Honour, and the Good of the Kingdom.*

The reſt I refer to My Lord Keeper.

THE

THE Lord Keepers SPEECH.

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the Houſe of Commons,

THE King hath already in Part, told you, What he hath done for you ſince the Laſt Receſs, What he is ſtill ready to do, and What it is he doth now expect from you.

And this in Terms ſo full, and ſo Obliging, ſo Generous and ſo Satisfactory, That he whoſe Affections are not rais'd by that Diſcourſe, He who cannot Acquieſce in the fulneſs of this Aſſurance, He whoſe Heart is not Eſtabliſht by it in ſuch a Belief as may entirely Diſpoſe him to the Service of the Crown, will hardly be recover'd to a Better Diſpoſition by any other Expedient.

For

For indeed what better way can be found to undeceive thoſe who have been abus'd, The King refers you to the Time paſt, not to his Promiſes, But to his Performances, Gives men leave to Judge by what they See, of what they Hear, By what hath been done ſince the Laſt Seſsion, of what is offer'd you Now, and what is likely to be done for the time to come.

And doth not every man See that the King hath given New life and motion to ſuch Laws as were long dead, or faſt aſleep? That he hath once more repair'd the Hedge about our Vineyard, and made it a Fence indeed, Againſt all thoſe who are Enemies to the Planting of it, who would be glad to ſee it Trodden down or rooted up, and ſtudy how to Sap and undermine our very Foundations.

Do we not ſee that the King hath made it his care and his buſineſs to do all that is poſsible to preſerve us in our Civil Rights too, That He makes the Laws of His Kingdom the meaſures not only of his Power but his Prudence, That he ſuffers no man to be Wiſer then the Law, That He thinks he cannot Judge of the Health or Sickneſs of his State by any better Indication then the Current of his Laws, and ſuffers nothing to remain that may in the Leaſt meaſure hinder Juſtice from flowing in its due and proper Channels?

A very few inſtances, of many that might be uſed, will ſerve to Demonſtrate it.

If the Conviction of all Recuſants and bringing them under the Penal Laws, can ſuppreſs Popery,

If

If without ſtaying for the Forms of Law in Points of Conviction, The preſent forbidding all Papiſts, or reputed Papiſts to come to Court, and the Extending this Prohibition to his Royal Palace at St. *James*'s be enough to Diſcountenance them,

If the not Extending his Prerogative beyond its due Limits can ſecure your Liberties,

If his Majeſties leſſening and reducing all his Land forces, and maintaining ſo few Extraordinary, that they will ſcarce be enough to help to Mann his Fleet this Summer; can Extinguiſh the Fears of a Standing Army,

If a Rigorous and Severe proſecution at Law, of all the Officers and Souldiers in his Majeſties Ordinary Guards when they misbehave themſelves towards the meaneſt Subject, can ſecure your Properties,

If the Abrogation of all the Priviledges from Arreſts which were claim'd by his Majeſties Servants Extraordinary, who are very Numerous, can prevent the Delays and Obſtructions of Juſtice.

Then ſurely his Majeſty hath reaſon to believe, that nothing is wanting which can Lawfully be done, or modeſtly be Wiſht, either for your Satisfaction or your Security.

Theſe are not ſingle and Tranſient Acts, but ſuch Acts as flow from Habits, Theſe are not Leaves and Bloſſoms, but true, ſolid, and Laſting Fruits, Long! Long! may that Royal Tree Live and Flouriſh upon which theſe Fruits do Grow.

And yet His Majeſties Indulgence to you reſts

not here, He gives you leave to ſtudy and contrive your own aſſurance, And if you think you want any further ſecurity, If any thing have eſcaped His Majeſties care, who meditates nothing more then your Preſervation, you ſee you have free Leave to make any Reaſonable Propoſition, and His Gracious promiſe that he will receive it.

This is a Satisfaction Equal to all your wiſhes. Now if ever your Joyes are full, There wants no more to the improvement of this happineſs, but the wiſdom of the Parliament to uſe theſe Advantages with a due moderation.

If therefore upon Enquiry you ſhall think it needful to apply any other Remedies, It is extreamly to be wiſht that thoſe Remedies may be few, And withall, that they may be Gentle and Eaſy too.

For they that are ſick periſh as often by too many Remedies, as by none at all, But none fall ſo fatally and ſo finally as they who, being enter'd into ſome Degrees of Convaleſcence, Reſolve to recover in an Inſtant, and had rather make ſome great Effort, or try ſome bold Experiment upon themſelves, then obſerve the methods, or attend thoſe Gradual progreſſions which are neceſſary to perfect that Health, and compleat that Recovery.

I muſt not omit one Inſtance more of His Majeſties Care for you, and that is the great Induſtry and Application of mind which His Majeſty hath us'd all along in hopes to have obtain'd by this

this time, if it had been poſſible, an Honourable and a Juſt Peace.

A very few words will ſerve to give you the whole Deduction of it from the firſt original to this preſent moment.

Much time was ſpent in agreeing the Place of Treaty, wherein the *Dutch* were gratifi'd in their deſires, and the City of *Cologne* is accepted for the Place.

When His Majeſties Ambaſſadours arriv'd there, the very firſt meeting with thoſe from the States General made it Evident that their Plenipotentiaries came not with any Intention to Enter upon a Serious Treaty, But only to draw the matter out into Length until their affairs might meet with a better and more pleaſing Conjuncture.

For their very Credentialls or Plenipotencies were ſo penn'd, That there were no leſs then four groſs Equivocations in the body of them, which was ſo manifeſt and without all reply, that they were fain to ſend to their Maſters at the *Hague* to get them Amended.

But that which gave greateſt offence of all, and was purpoſely done for that end, was the Preamble, wherein they take upon them to begg the Queſtion, to Decide the Juſtice of the Cauſe, and to affirm ſuch matters of Fact, as they had reaſon to believe would never be admitted.

No Arguments of Our Ambaſſadours, No inſtances of the Mediators though never ſo importunate, could prevail then, or yet can prevail, to have it altered. The

The Treaty ſhould Naturally have ſtopt here, But that His Majeſty was reſolved to Give a beginning to it, and (which was all that could be done) ſuffered His Ambaſſadours to enter upon it with a Proteſtation.

Our Demands are no ſooner given in, But preſently two of the *Dutch* Ambaſſadours go away to the *Hague* on pretence to conſult their Maſters, where they ſtaid a full Moneth, without any kind of Anſwer given, or Exceptions taken to His Majeſties Demands, or any the Leaſt Stepp made in this Negotiation.

When they came back their Anſwer was a Remonſtrance rather then an Anſwer, and ſuch a Remonſtrance as was fitter for a Rupture then a Treaty, There was ſcarce one Period in it which did not rather give Occaſion of new offence, then any Satisfaction for what was paſt.

Their very Converſation from that time forward wanted much of its former Civility.

They waited for the Concluſion of a Treaty with *Spain*, wherein one Article was, that as ſoon as *Spain* had broke with *France* they would preſently break off the Treaty at *Cologne*.

And now this Article is in effect performed, For two of their Principal Ambaſſadours are actually gone away from *Cologne*, as they long threatened they would do, leaving only two other for Forms ſake, who in all probability either

either muſt not, or will not Conclude without their Colleagues.

His Majeſty notwithſtanding hath not ſuffer'd himſelf to be Diverted from uſing all the ways and means that were poſſible to Facilitate a Peace. To this End he directed His Ambaſſadors from time to time, to Moderate their Demands in ſuch Particulars as were capable of it, And wholly relaxes ſome Points which were of higheſt importance to the Dutch to gain, and very Conſiderable Abatements of His Majeſties juſt Satisfaction.

A Condeſcention well receiv'd and Eſteem'd by the Mediators, though it have not yet found any ſuitable Reception from the Dutch Miniſters or their Superior Lords.

By this time they began to hope that the Subjects of *England* would grow weary of the War, and that they ſhould be able to profit themſelves very much by our Impatience.

To Encreaſe this as much as was poſſible, they prepare a Letter which they ſend by a Trumpeter, ſitting the Parliament, or very neer it, and Cauſe it to be given out that nothing could be more deſired, then they had offer'd.

His Majeſty quickly made that Letter and His Anſwer to it, publick, and for that time defeated the Deſign of this Paper Stratagem.

Their next Recourſe was to ſuch Propoſals as they could procure the Spaniſh Ambaſſadour to deliver on their behalfs.

Wherein beſides the Demands of Reſtitution of Prizes which was wholly impracticable, There was a Total Omiſſion of any Regulation of Trade in the *Indies*, No mention made of

Releaſing His Majeſties Subjects at *Surinam*, where they remain in a State of Bondage, No recompence offer'd, nor ſo much as Leave asked for the Liberty of Fiſhing upon Our Coaſts.

And yet the Right of our Sole Fiſhing is ſo cleer, That we find in our Ancient Rolls of Parliament in the time of *Richard* the Second, a Tax laid upon all ſtrangers who Fiſh in our Seas, and this not by way of Cuſtom when they come into our Ports, but by way of Tribute for Fiſhing in Our Seas: And this Evidence of His Majeſties Dominion within his own Seas, hath been in all Ages downward preſerved in ſome meaſure, until the Time of the late Uſurper who for private reaſons firſt abandon'd it.

As for that Satisfaction in the Matter of the Flagg which the Propoſals mention, it is but reaſonable to underſtand it in that ſenſe wherein they ſometimes uſed to expreſs themſelves at *Cologne*.

That is the thing ſhall be done, Whole Fleets ſhall ſtrike their Sayls to Single Ships, and they ſhall do it out of His Majeſties Seas too, But that of Right they ought ſo to do will never be acknowledg'd.

So they deſire to change the Ancient inheritance of the Crown into a New purchaſe, and to Turn that Purchaſe into a Matter of Civility, which they may Equally pay to all Crown'd Heads, and Equally reſume according to their good pleaſure and Occaſions.

Now though theſe Propoſals have been backt with ſome kind of Intimation of a War with *Spain* in caſe of a Refuſal, Yet His Majeſty who Knows the Articles of Peace between

tween himſelf and that King and His own care to preſerve them, Who knows the uſefulneſs of His Alliance to that King, and the many good Offices he hath alwaies been ready to do for him, and withal conſiders the great Wiſdom and Prudence of that Councel, and how carefully they uſe to Deliberate before they come to Great and important Reſolutions, will not Eaſily believe it poſſible for that King to proceed to ſuch Extremities.

The rather becauſe the Dutch themſelves have ſince Departed from thoſe very Propoſals which they procur'd the Spaniſh Ambaſſadour ſo earneſtly to recommend.

For they afterward ſent the Ambaſſadour a Reply to His Majeſties Anſwer to their Letter, wherein they abate much of what the Ambaſſadour had offer'd, and ſeek to reduce things to the State they were in at *Breda*.

So that tis hard to know by what kind of Propoſals they intend to be bound, But tis moſt Reaſonable to believe they intend thoſe made by themſelves, rather then thoſe made for them.

And yet this Reply, beſides the diſreſpect it Carry'd to *Spain*, whoſe Propoſals it ſhrunk from, was ſo offenſive to His Majeſty, that the Ambaſſadour like a wiſe and great Miniſter, that is, like himſelf, thought it became him to ſend it back again without offering to preſent it.

Nevertheleſs this Paper hath ſince Stollen into the Preſs, and is Printed at the *Hague* as a Letter delivered, and hath been ſent hither under Covers to ſeveral members of the Houſe of Commons, of that Houſe of Commons whom

whom they Libell'd in the former War for their Zeal, and now Pretend to Reverence for their Deliberation.

And all this in hopes you will not think them obſtinate, who refuſe to Treat at the Place of their Own Appointment, or to be well underſtood any where elſe. How is it poſſible to underſtand theſe Proceedings to be Real, and with a true deſire of Peace, And if they ſhould yet ſend during this Seſſion any New Propoſal, for who Knows the Deſigns of an Enemy? what form ſoever thoſe Overtures may be dreſt in, we may juſtly ſuſpect that their End is, if they cannot Divide us at leaſt to Amuſe us and leſſen our Care in Providing for the War.

Perhaps tis more then an Honorable War doth allow to go about to raiſe Sedition, though in the Country of an Enemy, But ſurely the Artifice of Appealing in a Manner to the people and making them the Judges of Peace and War, is a little too plain and open to take any Effect here.

I have done with theſe few Inſtances of His Majeſties care, thoſe of His kindneſs are infinite, That which you have heard this morning is of a Tranſcendent, and indeed a very ſurprizing Nature, Tis an Act of ſo Entire a Confidence on His Majeſties part, that it can never be repaid by any other Tribute on your part, but that of a True and Humble Affiance in Him.

I muſt now proceed to put you in mind That There are ſome other things which His Majeſty with Great Juſtice and Great aſſurance doth Expect from you again.

The firſt is a ſpeedy and a Proportionable Supply,

ply, and this is of abſolute neceſſity both for War and Peace.

His Majeſty is well aſſur'd His Fleet is in ſuch a forwardneſs that if the Supply come in any reaſonable Time, you will find no Time hath been loſt in Preparation, And it was no ſmall matter to bring it to that paſs that we may be as forward as Our Enemies if we pleaſe, or very neer it.

If the Supply be at all Delay'd it will have as ill effect almoſt as if it were denied, For We may chance to be found like *Archimedes*, drawing Lines in the Duſt while the Enemy is entring into our Ports. And if the further Progreſs of this Fleet be ſtopt for want of your Concurrence, make Account all hopes of Peace are ſtopt too, For, though the Fruit of War be Peace, Yet tis ſuch a Fruit as we muſt not Hope to gather without our Arms in our Hands.

Tis not the way to have a brave Peace, to ſhew our ſelves weary of the War; who ever Truſted to the good Nature of their Enemies? Tis a vigorous aſſiſtance of the Crown that muſt make not onely your Arms conſiderable, but your Treaties too.

On the other ſide if the putting of your ſelves into a good Poſture of War ſhould produce a Peace, as poſſibly it may do, Yet you will have the beſt Account of your Supply your Hearts can wiſh, For His Majeſty is content it be appropriated to the building of more Ships.

Therefore if the Diſcourſe upon this Subject be a little more Preſſing then Ordinary, you may be ſure the Occaſion is ſo too.

There cannot be a Higher Gratification of your Enemies then to be backward in this Point, The

very Opinion they have that you would be ſo hath already done us ſo much harm, that perhaps it is one great Cauſe of the Continuance of the War.

Had the Enemy deſpair'd of any Diviſion here, 'tis likely his Proceedings had been more Sincere, and our Peace had not been ſo far off as now it ſeems to be.

There is one thing more the King hath mention'd, and onely mention'd to you, that is the Conſideration of the Goldſmiths, which involves ſo many Perſons and Families, that the Concern is little leſs then Natio al, 'Tis an affair the King lays very much to Heart, and hopes a Proper time will come when a favourable Regard may be had of it.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The King doth not onely aſſure himſelf of your Affections to him at this Time, But from ſuch Affections ſo Known and ſo Try'd as yours, he doth yet Expect far greater things then theſe.

He doth Expect that you ſhould do your Endeavours to reſtore and improve the mutual confidence between him and his People, and that you ſhould do it to ſuch a Degree that it may recover its full ſtrength, and quite Extinguiſh all their Fears and Jealouſies.

For the King takes Notice that the malice of his Enemies hath been very Active in Sowing ſo many Tares, as are almoſt enough to Spoyl that Harveſt of Love and Duty which His Majeſty may juſtly Expect to reap from the good ſeed which He Himſelf had Sown.

Among the many Venemous Inſinuations which have been made uſe of, the Fears and Jealouſies of Religion and Liberty are of the worſt

ſort,

ſart, and the moſt Dangerous Impreſſions.

Certainly Malice was never more buſie then it hath been in theſe Reports, and it hath been aſſiſted by a great Deal of Invention.

But 'tis to be hoped that no mans Judgment or affections will be either miſled or Diſturbed by ſuch Reports.

For Calumnies and Slanders of this Nature are like Comets in the Air, they may ſeem perhaps, Eſpecially to the fearful, to be ill Prognoſticks, and the Direct forerunners of miſchief, But in themſelves they are Vain Apparitions, and have no kind of Solidity, no Permanence or Duration at all. For after a little while the Vapour ſpends it ſelf, and then the Baſe Exhalation quickly falls back again into that Earth from whence it came.

Religion and Liberty ſtand ſecur'd by the moſt Sacred Tyes that are, Nay the King hath a greater Intereſt in the preſervation of both, then you your ſelves: For as Religion, the Proteſtant Religion, commands your indiſpenſable obedience, ſo 'tis a Juſt and Lawful Liberty which ſweetens that command, and endears it to you.

Let other Princes therefore Glory in the moſt reſign'd obedience of their Vaſſals, His Majeſty values Himſelf upon the Hearts and affections of His People, and thinks His Throne when Seated there, better Eſtabliſhed then the moſt Exalted Soveraignty of thoſe who tread upon the Necks of them that riſe up againſt them.

Since the world ſtood, never any King had ſo great a Cauſe to reſt upon this Security.

They were your Hearts that mourned in Secret for the abſence of the King: They were your Hearts and affections to the King which Tyr'd out all the late Uſurpations, by your invincible

Patience

Patience and fortitude: It was you that Taught our Engliſh World to See and Know that no Government could be ſetled here, but upon the true foundations of *Honour and Allegeance*.

This, This alone made way for all the happy Changes which have follow'd.

And yet Poſterity will have cauſe to doubt, which was the greater Felicity of the two, That Providence which reſtor'd the Crown, or that which ſent us ſuch a Parliament to preſerve it when it was reſtor'd. What may not the King now hope from you? What may not you aſſure your ſelves from him? Can any thing be difficult to Hearts ſo united, To Intereſts ſo Twiſted and interwoven together, as the Kings and yours are?

Doubtleſs the King will Surpaſs himſelf at this time in Endeavouring to procure the good of the Kingdom, Do but you Excell your ſelves too in the continued Evidences of your affections, and then the Glory of Reviving this State will be entirely due to this Seſſion.

Then they who Wait for the Languiſhing and the Declination of the preſent Government, will be Amaz'd to ſee ſo happy a Criſis, ſo bleſt a Revolution.

And Ages to come will find cauſe to Celebrate your Memories, as the trueſt Phyſicians, the wiſeſt Councellors, the Nobleſt Patriots, and the beſt Seſsion of the beſt Parliament that ever King or Kingdom met with.

FINIS.

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